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PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, ORR

MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1955

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

A. Accomplishments and Coordination Activities

1. The Geographic Area carried a heavy load of production and service through the activities of the four divisions during the month of February. In summarizing the production and services, it can be noted that the Cartography Division produced 51 maps and charts; the Geography Division produced 19 intelligence reports and memoranda; the Photo Intelligence Division completed 11 intelligence projects; and the Map Library Division added 23,679 map sheets and 916 atlases and reference volumes to its collection, and serviced 1,049 requests by sending out 16,713 map sheets. In addition to the production which can be noted in terms of items, there are many other significant accomplishments by the four divisions which have been made and which will strengthen the Area program in the future. Your attention is called to the detailed presentation in the attached division reports.

2. In order to establish workable relations at proper levels with the photographic agencies of the government to the end [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a series of conferences were held with chiefs of major agencies to establish a working group and proper working level liaison for dealing with such complex problems. This new coordinating facility, informal in character and operation, should provide an adequate means for the correct handling of all negotiable photographic items submitted by [REDACTED] for coordination.

3. The Cartography Division in carrying out its responsibilities for the production of NIS Chapter I (Maps) has been actively working with D/B in the development of a sound product which represents the coordinated needs of all end users. It should be pointed out that the type of map being prepared for Chapter I requires a number of man-hours in excess of that required for a normal map produced by the division.

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4. A staff study on the urban area program, prepared and submitted to the AD/RR on 4 February, has occasioned a number of conferences which have examined the course of action to be taken relative to DD/I responsibilities for fulfilling this request of the DD/P. Following the last conference on the subject, the AD/RR conferred with [REDACTED] DD/P, on the need for such an elaborate program as outlined in the initial DD/P request and briefed him on the effort that ORR had made in behalf of developing an adequate solution to this production responsibility and problem. As a result of this meeting it now appears that ORR will entertain a modest, real request for urban area work which would satisfy the actual needs of DD/P for urban area data. 25X1A

5. As a result of Office Career Board consideration of career counseling and development, the senior staff of the Area spent considerable time developing a paper on Career Development in the Geographic Area. This statement of philosophy and policy which, when completed to cover all activities, will be used primarily by supervisors and will serve to indicate to them the scope and detail of their responsibilities for career counseling.

B. Problems

6. Attention is directed to the receipt of documents from which pages have been removed by clipping during the routing prior to receipt in the Area. It is requested that this obnoxious practice be called to the attention of responsible officials in ORR to the end that it will be stopped.

7. Information on the scheduling of international conferences distributed in a State Department publication has been some four months in reaching the Area, thus denying us the opportunity to exploit several significant international gatherings which have had intelligence potential.